



County of San Diego

# HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REUSE GUIDE



[www.WasteFreeSD.org](http://www.WasteFreeSD.org)

**1-877-R-1-EARTH**

(1-877-713-2784)

*Toll Free Recycling Hotline*



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This guide is designed to help residents of the unincorporated county to recycle and reduce pollution.

Listing in this directory is not a recommendation or endorsement by the County of San Diego. To add your business to this directory, contact:

**1-877-R-1-EARTH**

**The County of San Diego's Toll Free Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Hotline**

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This guide is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled content paper with soy-based inks.

[www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recycling](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recycling)

# The County of San Diego Recycles It's In Our Nature!

Since 1990, San Diego County residents and business increased our recycling from 20% to over 50%. But we can still do more!

## WHY RECYCLE?

Recycling is more than just sorting bottles and cans—it's about using less to do more, reducing pollution, and conserving resources.

### Natural Resources

Recycling conserves our precious –and increasingly rare – raw materials, such as oil, trees, metals, and water.

### Landfill Space

Sending less waste to our landfills ensures that local landfills will be available for years to come.

### Water and Energy

Producing and consuming products uses energy and water. Producing those same products from recycled material uses up to 50% less energy and water—ensuring that there is enough for all of us.

### Pollution

Less energy is used to make the same products from recycled materials than from virgin material—that means less air and water pollution!

### Jobs

Recycling creates long-term jobs and improves the economy. Each 10 thousand tons of debris generated creates 10 jobs at a materials recovery facility and creates 25 jobs at a recycling processor. In comparison, landfilling the material creates only one job.

### It's the Law

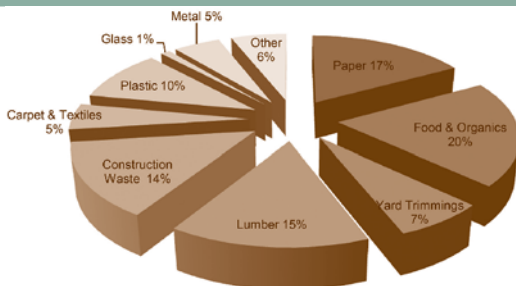
The County Solid Waste Ordinance prohibits residents from placing the following materials in the trash:

## USE LESS, DO MORE

Each of us has a stake in preventing pollution and preserving resources for future generations. Each person in San Diego County annually discards an average of 2,044 pounds of materials into landfills. You can make a difference by reducing, reusing, recycling and composting.

*ALUMINUM CANS, GLASS BOTTLES & JARS, NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD, MIXED PAPER, LARGE APPLIANCES, YARD WASTE, RIGID PLASTICS, TIN & BI-METAL CANS*

## WHAT'S IN YOUR LOCAL LANDFILL?



Source: California 2008 Statewide Waste Characterization Study

# Create Less



## REDUCE

*Prevent waste before it starts.*

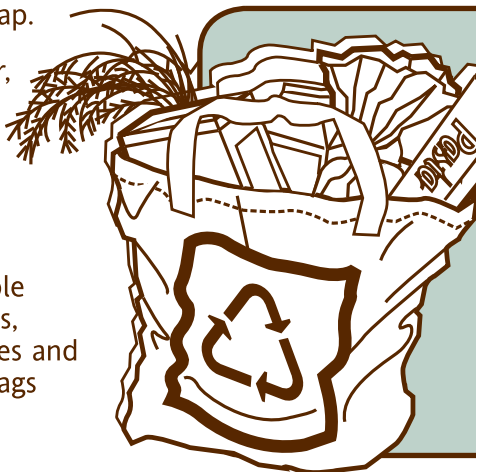
- Choose products that are reusable, rather than those made for single use.
- Choose products that are packaged in recyclable materials or use little or no packaging.
- Purchase items in refillable containers and in bulk whenever possible.
- Rent or borrow rarely used items, such as power tools, party supplies, and motorized yard equipment.
- Conserve paper by making double-sided copies, sharing information electronically and avoiding unnecessary printouts.
- Reduce the tree and yard trimmings you produce—use native, drought tolerant plants and compost!
- Eliminate junk mail online at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recycling/junkmail.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recycling/junkmail.html)



## REUSE

*Less is more, use what you already have.*

- Shop at and donate items to thrift stores, garage sales, flea markets and antiques shops.
- Take packaging peanuts and bubble wrap to a shipping store (most will accept them for free) to be used again.
- Reuse food containers and buy durable storage containers for leftovers instead of using foil, plastic bags, or wrap.
- Reupholster, repair, refinish, or donate furniture.
- Plan ahead: take reusable coffee mugs, water bottles and shopping bags with you.



# Waste



## RECYCLE

***Many common materials can be recycled, which saves money, natural resources, and landfill space.***

- Have your recycling collected curbside or take it to a recycling drop off center (listed in our online recycling database).
- Shop around. Compare services, costs and recycling options each hauler provides. Some haulers provide curbside motor oil and cooking oil collection and quarterly free bulky item collection.



## COMPOST

***Composting is an easy way to recycle most of the organic materials generated at home.***

- Whether you live in a house, apartment, condominium, or mobile home, there are easy ways you can combine your yard trimmings and kitchen scraps to create your own non-toxic fertilizer and compost.

For more information on home composting workshops call **1-877-R-1-EARTH** or visit **[www.WasteFreeSD.org](http://www.WasteFreeSD.org)**.

**Repair:** Before you buy, find out if a product is repairable or designed to be thrown away when it malfunctions. Buying a quality and/or repairable product the first time may actually save you money.



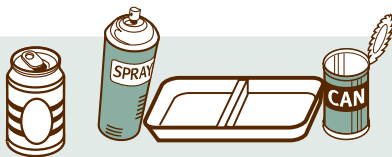
**Using a reusable bag** rather than a single use bag at the checkout counter may seem like a small act, but combine it with other small acts and you can save pounds of plastic and paper each day.

### Reuse ideas?

Follow us on Facebook and Pinterest for fun and easy ways to reuse common materials and turn them into function household items, art, and kids crafts.



# What to Re



## ALUMINUM & STEEL CANS AND OTHER METALS

Almost all metals can be recycled. Soda, juice, soup, pet food, empty aerosol and paint cans are recyclable.

Tip: Rinse and crush cans to conserve space. Empty spray cans completely.



## GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

Remove lids and rinse.

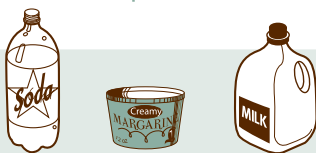
Tip: Pyrex, windows, light bulbs and ceramics are NOT recyclable. Lids are recyclable.



## MIXED PAPER & CARDBOARD

Flatten all cardboard, cereal and snack boxes, milk cartons, and juice boxes. Recycle newspaper, white paper, colored paper, glossy newspaper inserts, magazines, brochures, junk mail, manila envelopes, phonebooks and envelopes (with or without windows).

Tip: No tissues or napkins.



## RIGID PLASTICS

Soda bottles, plastic milk and water jugs, plastic wide-mouth tubs (such as salsa or yogurt containers), plastic trays, plastic toys, lids, and caps, etc. with #1 -7 imprinted on the bottom.

Tip: Most curbside recycling programs do not accept plastic bags, styrofoam, PVC pipe, automotive product containers, poison or pesticide bottles.

## PLASTIC BAGS



Recycle clean plastic bags at grocery stores. Do not place in curbside recycling bins.

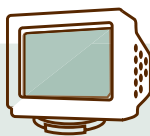
# cycle



## YARD TRIMMINGS

Grass, yard clippings, Christmas trees and wood. Cut larger items into 2-foot pieces. Place in a separate container from household recyclables.

Tip: Palm fronds may not be accepted. Check with your hauler.



## EVERYTHING ELSE

Don't forget to recycle computers, TVs, used motor oil and filters, electronic devices, appliances and scrap metal. Contact your waste hauler to see which items they will accept or call **1-877-R-1-EARTH** or visit **www.WasteFreeSD.org** to find a recycler near you.

Tip: Household hazardous waste such as paint, household cleaners, and yard chemicals can NOT be disposed of in the trash. There are affordable, safe and legal disposal options for hazardous waste for residents and businesses throughout San Diego County. Residents should call 1-877-R-1-EARTH. Businesses should call the Hazardous Waste Duty Desk at 858-505-6680 or toll free at 1-800-253-9933.

### \$\$ For Bottles and Cans

In California beverages packaged in aluminum, glass, plastic and bi-metal require a deposit and are marked with CRV, CA Redemption Value, or CA Refund. The deposit can be collected at any certified redemption center.

Call **1-877-R-1-EARTH** or visit **www.WasteFreeSD.org** for the nearest site.

Do “the Stomp” on plastic, aluminum, paper and steel containers to reduce their size before placing these containers in your recycling bin. This conserves space on collection trucks and makes collection routes more efficient and cost-effective.



# Life After

## LIFE AFTER THE RECYCLING BIN

Once you send materials off to be recycled they take on a life of their own. You may be familiar with recycled content paper, but did you know that plastic bottles can be processed into polyester fibers that become carpets and fleece clothing? Or that aluminum cans might become baseball bats?



## CLOSING THE LOOP

When you buy recycled products, you close the recycling loop and that's what makes recycling work. Recycled-content products are comparable (and in some cases superior) in quality, price and durability to virgin material products. If your store doesn't have recycled-content products, ask the manager to carry them.



## WHAT CAN YOU BUY THAT IS RECYCLED?

**Paper:** Copy paper, printing and writing paper, paper towels, tissues, etc.

**Home and office supplies:** File folders, binders, toner cartridges, aluminum foil.

**Outdoor products:** Soaker hoses, garden edging boards, benches, tables, and plastic lumber decking, rubber pavers.

### Does Recycling Paper Really Make A Difference?

Yes it does! It takes 17 trees to make one ton of paper. In 2012 unincorporated county residents and businesses sent approximately 73,453 tons of paper — that's 1.2 MILLION trees, to the landfill when it could have been recycled.



# the Bin

## READING LABELS

The best way to support recycling is to buy products that are made from the highest percentage of **POSTCONSUMER** recycled content. Post-consumer material comes from products that are purchased, used, then recycled and manufactured back into new products.



### Using recycled aluminum

to make a new can saves 90% of the energy required to produce the same can from virgin materials.

## PRE-CONSUMER OR POST-INDUSTRIAL

products are made from leftover materials that are reused in the same plant or industry.



These symbols mean that a product or its packaging is made partially or completely from **RECYCLED** materials.

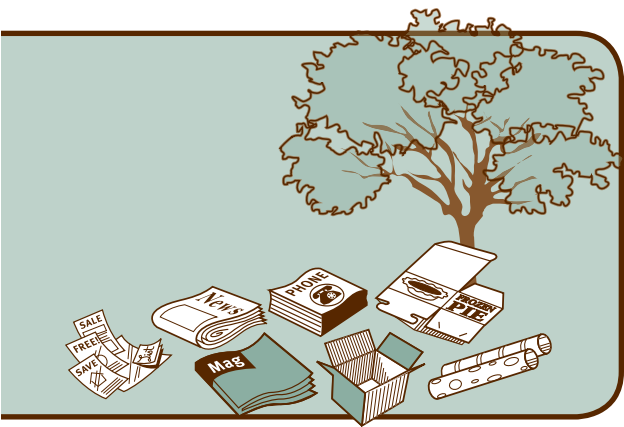


The products will usually list the percentage of **POST-CONSUMER** content.



This symbol means that a product is **RECYCLABLE** in most areas.

Recyclable products depend on a market and facilities to be recycled. Check with the County, your hauler or a recycling center to find out which products can be recycled.



# How To Do

## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION... BECOME A BLOCK LEADER

Block Leaders are community recycling advocates who setup and help maintain recycling programs in neighborhoods, apartment and condominium complexes, schools and businesses. It only takes one person to make a difference.

## CHOOSE GREEN PRODUCTS

In addition to buying recycled-content products, you can buy products that are energy-efficient, less toxic, more durable and sold without excessive packaging. Green products include:

- Less toxic cleaning products
- Printing and writing paper that is processed without dioxin-generating chlorine
- Low- or no-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints
- EnergyStar certified appliances and computers
- Water-conserving faucets and fixtures
- Alternatives to vinyl flooring, such as natural linoleum, ceramic tile, low-VOC and recycled-content carpet

## KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

The County's Watershed Protection Ordinance prohibits the discharge, either directly or indirectly, of anything but rainwater to storm drains or water bodies. Our daily actions, like recycling, can help keep our water clean. Start today! Small acts add up to cleaner waterways and environments.

- Properly dispose of waste and recycle motor oil.
- Minimize the use of pesticides, fertilizers and household chemicals.
- Prevent soil erosion with native landscaping and composting.
- Conserve water by adding compost to the soil, planting drought-tolerant yards and using mulch or compost to control weeds.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Walk, ride a bike, or carpool.
- Sweep rather than rinse your driveway and sidewalks.



For more information or to report stormwater pollution, call 1-888-846-0800 or [www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org).

# More

## OTHER COUNTY RECYCLING GUIDES

Call **1-877-R-1-EARTH** or

[www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recyclinghome.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/recyclinghome.html)  
for a copy of the following guides.



### CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION RECYCLING GUIDE

Waste reduction, reuse and recycling information and locations for industry and the home remodeler.



### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING GUIDE

Safe storage and management of household toxics.



### AUTOMOTIVE RECYCLING GUIDE

Find places to recycle anything auto. Includes information on care and recycling of tires, motor oil, filters, parts and hazardous materials.



### APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM RECYCLING GUIDE

The 1,2,3's of multi-family complex recycling.



### JUNK MAIL REDUCTION KIT

Reduce unwanted mail.

## THE COUNTY IS HERE TO HELP YOU RECYCLE!

County staff can help you improve recycling services in your community, schools, and at the curb. Call **1-877-R-1-EARTH** or [www.WasteFreeSD.org](http://www.WasteFreeSD.org) for more information.

# Contacts

FIND A RECYCLING CENTER  
NEAR YOU BY CALLING  
OUR HOTLINE:

**1-877-R-1-EARTH**

**1-877-713-2784**

Se habla Español

OR VISIT OUR  
ONLINE DATABASE:

**www.WasteFreeSD.org**

## ITEMS COMMONLY ACCEPTED FOR BUY BACK:

- California Redemption Value bottles and cans (CRV)
- Scrap metals
- Cardboard
- White (office) paper



Always call ahead to confirm hours of operation and assure acceptance of materials you wish to recycle. Some facilities may have reduced or expanded the types of materials they take. Make sure you find out the terms and conditions that are required for each material.

## CONTACT LIST FOR OTHER JURISDICTIONS:

For a list of contacts for other jurisdictions in the County of San Diego:

- **Hazardous materials:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/household-haz-waste-contacts>
- **Recycling:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/SD-County-Recycling-Contacts>